3-18-09

MONARCHS SLIDE PAST GLENDALE

Valley's softball team sweeps Glendale Community College in afternoon doubleheader

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE'S
VALLEY STAR
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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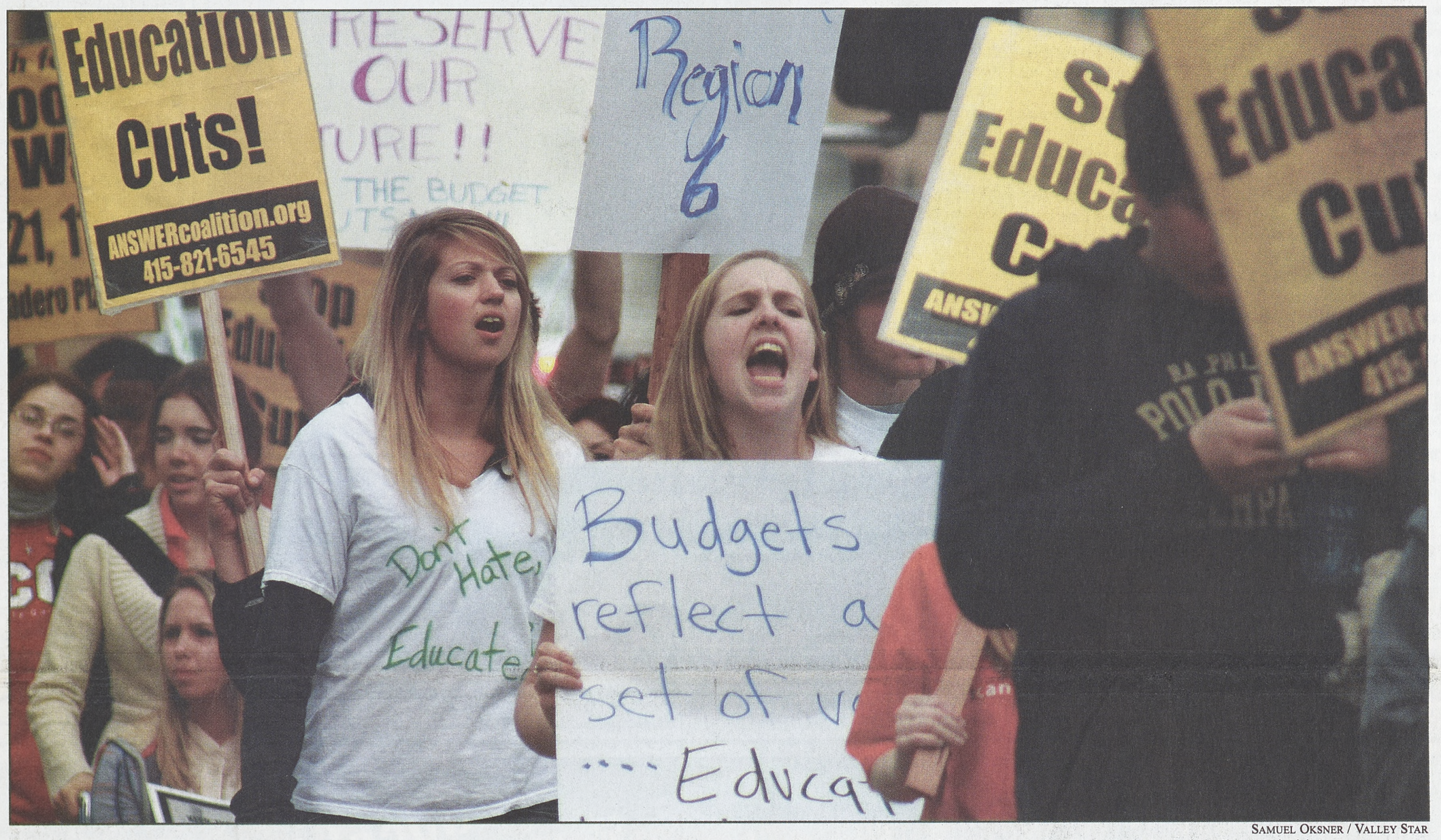
Valley Students Attend Rally in Sacramento

LAVC STUDENTS TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL TO JOIN THE MARCH RALLY



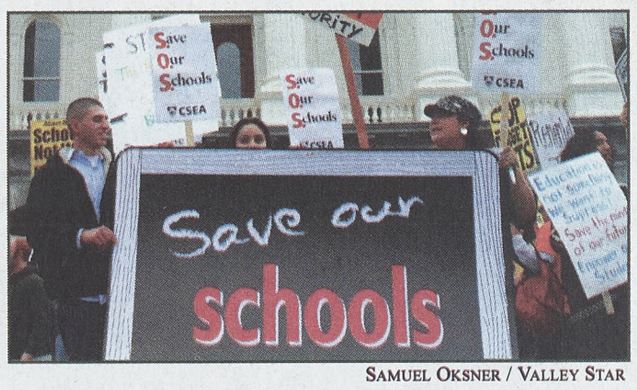
SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT - More than 5,000 students from California's 110 community colleges gathed in Sacramento on Monday for a rally to express their concern over education budget cuts made by the state legislature.

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITER

Despite an ominous weather forecast, a group of Valley College students, led by the Associated Student Union, traveled to Sacramento Monday for the "March in March: Rescue Education" rally. The rally gave a voice to thousands of community college students from all corners of the state who wanted the state legislature to hear their pleas to end budget cuts to higher education.

More than 5,000 students marched under foreboding gray clouds from Raley Field in West Sacramento to the State Assembly Building, chanting, "Don't hate, educate," and "Our future, our nation, we need our education," as cars passed by honking in solidarity.



SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

The two-mile long line of students also carried signs showing budget cuts in all of California's higher education institutes are unacceptable.

Valley student Bernard Gonzales said after the rally, "There's more (benefits) in the future by (funding) education now instead of something else."

Students from colleges across the state echoed Gonzales's

see ***Students*** page 2

Job Fair Offers Flexible Employment Opportunities

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

Though the economy is sluggish, the hopes of finding a new job were high Wednesday, as 100 students milled around Monarch Square for the 30th Annual Job Fair, held by the LAVC Job Resource Center and Cooperative Education.

Fifteen prospective employers, including retailers and job matching companies sat at festooned booths, offering goodies to entice students and load them up with information.

Mary Kay representative Cinderella Moore has attended the Job Fair for the past three years and said that the company was perfect for those who need flexibility and a fast path to financial stability.

"You can start from the ground up, no [retail] background," said Moore. "It depends on how hard you want to work. Mary Kay gives you self esteem, teaches you motivation, teaches you finances … Anything that you are looking for, we can train you."

Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff Lance Lindsay sat at his booth in a thick jacket, looking to add more recruits to the largest Sheriff's Department in the world.

"We just want people to know that we are actively recruiting … And, we are actively trying to recruit females," said Lindsay. "The department has a lot of different positions … we have plumbers, nurses, doctors, everything we need to run a jail. We offer around 650 different jobs."

Despite the meltdown of the financial sector in the past six months, students were eagerly chatting to the insurance companies present. Chris Hager from Aflac passed out fliers, with toy ducks arranged on his table like fluffy little amulets.

"We are looking for qualified people … The gamut runs from being bilingual, Spanish, Armenian, Russian … Our Hispanic market is underserved," said Hager. "We want people who are willing to work and put their head down to build their own business."

Hager also said having a degree was not a requirement to work for the company; a former state sales coordinator only had a high school diploma.

Although the response was positive from the companies hiring at the fair, and they generally shared the goal of recruiting despite the economic downturn, there was disappointment from students who were knocked back because of eligibility requirements. Student Kathy Arellano, who earned her associate degree last spring and was keen to find a job, was one of them.

"Sadly, several of the jobs have an age limitation … For instance, [the LAPD] has an age limit, I'm not 34, I'm 60!" said Arellano, who came armed with resumes to hand out. She was most interested in working for a job matching company, so she could make use of her skills from previous employment.

Free Sessions Aimed to Parents and Toddlers

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

School may be tough for those who are just trying to juggle their classes and a job, but for some students at Valley College, having a child is another aspect of their lives they must balance. However, moms and dads on campus are not alone, with free Parent and Baby Sessions offering weekly support.

Since 2004, the center, located in Bungalow 49, has been offering free sessions for parents and their babies aged 30 months and under. The sessions are also available in Spanish and take place in bungalow 49 on Tuesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Thursday 12-1 p.m. until March 24th. They are open to the community as well as student parents.

"The bilingual sessions are held together, it is also a way for parents to expose their toddlers to Spanish and English," said Gloria Daims,

see ***Baby*** page 2

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

QUALITY TIME - Parents are encouraged to play with their children during Valley's 'Parent and Baby sessions.' The sessions are now offered in both English and Spanish, and will run every Tuesday through March.

Early Riser Gets the Spot

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Walking through Valley College's various parking lots during early morning hours, a slew of students can be seen minutes before class time, competing with countless vehicles for that one last spot. Due to the ongoing construction and influx in students, the campus sheriff's department has, and will continue to beef up security, making sure this unannounced competition doesn't turn into a violent debacle.

"We have stepped up our methods of patrolling," Deputy Sheriff Rick Baker said. "We have increased our patrols and parking attendants [throughout the parking lots]."

According to the LAVC Enrollment Management Committee, there is a clear increase in student attendance and visitors on campus this semester. This upsurge not only noticable at the beginning of semester, but now throughout, as budget concerns bring more workers back to school. Due to the increase in students

see ***Parking*** page 2

'Students'

continued from page 1

sentiments.

Marlo Custodio of De Anza College in Cuppertino said, "The number of people here shows that we care."

Shannon Smith and Christina Adame of Folsom Lake College both said classes at their school are overflowing.

"The (community college) budget cuts were not as bad as they could have been," said fellow Folsom student Katharine Melendez. "But the cuts (at the universities) still affect the community colleges."

"The (community college) budget cuts were not as bad as they could have been."

- Katharine Melendez

The budget of California's community colleges relies on six ballot referendums, commonly known as Propositions. These Propositions will be on the ballot for voters to consider in the election being held May 29. Until then, the budget for community colleges will remain unsettled

In a meeting with ASU President Josh Wible and other Valley representatives, State Senator Carol Liu (D-21st District) was apologetic about the existing cuts to college budgets.

"It will be really terrible if we don't pass (the referendums), but we won't have a choice." said Liu.

In that meeting, Wible said, "The main thing we wanted to do was thank (the legislature). Even though it seemed like a protest, that is not (ASU's) position. We understand the budget difficulties and it got taken care of." Some Valley students went so far as to deliver a huge "Thank You" card to Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi as he stepped away from speaking during the rally outside the Assembly Building. The card was dedicated to all California lawmakers, thanking them for their efforts to not cut too much from the community college budget.

However, not all of Valley's contingent held the same sentiment.

"I'm mad," said Bernard Gonzales.

Fellow Valley student Clay Gallardo added, "I think the (ASU) gave us the wrong idea. There is a bigger thing happening but, there was a big sense of hope because of how many people came (to the rally)"

Gallardo also said he felt that the budget cuts in the state's universities still affect students in community colleges by increasing enrollment and causing transfer difficulties.

The signs and chants of thousands of other students conveyed the same message.

'Parking'

continued from page 1

on campus for the first monzth of each semester, many are finding it difficult to arrive on time for morning and afternoon classes.

"I'm late everyday," student Molly Barny said. "I leave a few minutes earlier...but I have noticed it's calmed down a lot."

Some students are leaving a little earlier in the morning to make sure their vehicle is the one to successfully fill the lots scattered around Valley.

When asked to compare the parking situation to previous semester, student Chris Monterroza said that things had definitely not got better.

"I have to leave five minutes earlier (in the morning)...And yeah, it's worse."

Shuttles were set up to drive students from a separate location off school campus for the first weeks of the spring semester and will be available in semesters to come, according to the sheriff's department. Furthermore, the college will continue to assign-parking guards to direct traffic, and inform drivers when lots are full.

Many students such as Steve Yager are using other methods in order to ensure their punctuality come class time.

"I've found that if I allot enough time [before class]... I don't have to buy a parking pass...I'm rarely late to class, [and] it seems most lots are full anyway," Yager said in reference to parking on the streets located around Valley.

According to Deputy Baker, there have been no major incidents due to the off balance percentage of student drivers and spots available this semester, and the deputy department remains dedicated to making sure students can park on time and most importantly, safely.

"We are trying to do the best we can to accommodate everyone," Baker said. "It's not easy managing a student body of 20,000."

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

GOING MY WAY - The economic crisis has resulted in more and more people riding the bus to save money.

'Baby'

continued from page 1

an adjunct assistant professor who specializes in child development at Valley.

Student interns who are majoring in child development are also on-hand to interact and encourage toddlers with child development, as well as answer parents' questions.

"Parents really enjoy having the opportunity to learn hands on in terms of development needs of a child and stages," said Daims.

A baby clothing exchange is also available, where parents can bring in unwanted used items in clean and good condition and trade them for others.

Member of the community Richelle Boyd and her son Ryder have attended the sessions for two weeks.

"It is a good way to interact with other moms and since Ryder it gives him an opportunity to play with other toddlers his age," said Boyd.

The toddlers are able to interact with one another, which aids them in the learning process. Nine month old Liana was able to watch the older children according to her mother Masha, who said, "She learns how to crawl and do other things from watching the other toddlers."

To reserve space or for more information contact the Family Resource Center/Bungalow 49 at (818)778-5528.

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof. **Editorials** are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

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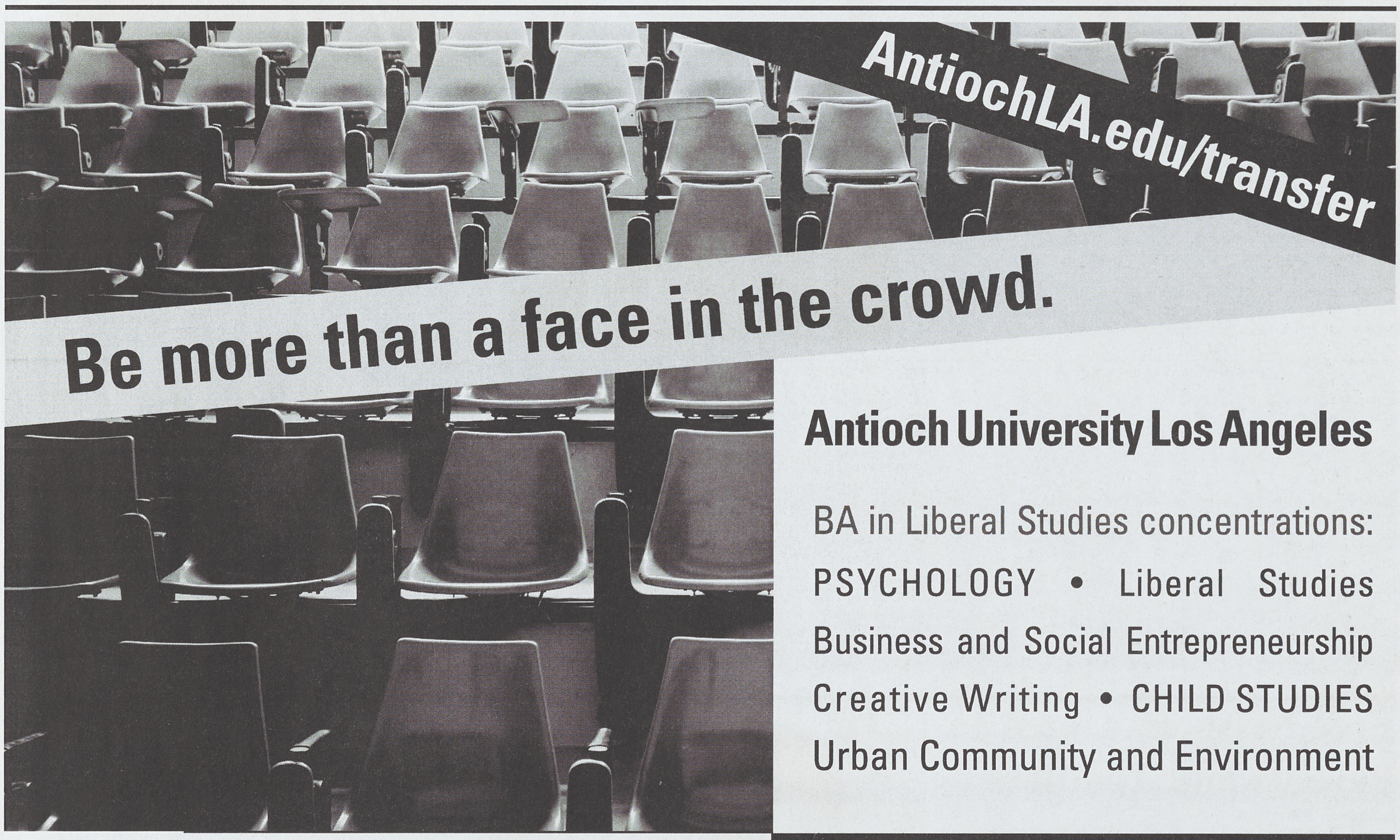


Weighing Your Options in a Calorie Obsessed Nation

JOE LAFLEUR
OPINION EDITOR

The society we live in today is a contradictory one. We are an environmentally-friendly, S.U.V.-driving, oil-dependent nation. We are charity-giving, self-obsessed people who will do anything to make ourselves feel better, such as buy a shirt made in a sweat-shop because the proceeds benefit the latest celebrity-endorsed crisis in a third-world country. We are a health-crazed, calorie-counting, fast-food consuming, exercise-driven, overweight nation who will buy anything, as long as it contains today's magic calorie number, 100.

This 100-calorie trend sweeping across the shopping aisles of America is yet another false ploy to make the public health conscious, and in no way is it an original idea. It's called portion control, something with which everyone should be familiar. This is just like every other capitalist scheme designed to make you feel better about yourself; it ends up costing you more than its "unhealthy" counterpart and the environment is marred by the overproduction.

Yet, what we fail to realize is that whether you are eating a pack of Oreo Thin Crisps or a regular pack of Oreos, they are still not as good for you as a piece of fruit or a glass of water. According to the American Obesity Association, 127 million adults in the United States are over weight, 60 million are obese and 9 million are classified as severely obese.

The only feature in which these 100-calorie packs differ is smaller portions because, let's face it, counting calories is far too difficult and no one wants to worry about cutting that full sized bag of popcorn in half. Now you can just reach for your Orville Redenbacher's 100 Calorie Mini Bags Smart Pop with 94 percent fat free butter, and not feel guilty about eating the entire thing.

The idea of pre-packaged 100-calorie snack packs plays into the lazy mentality of the country. To think that companies such as Kraft, Nabisco or Kellogg's actually care about the health of the hungry and overweight masses is ridiculous. If they did, they would stop producing their junk food products and start manufacturing exercise equipment, but they keep rolling out the Twinkies, so clearly they don't.

While some may say it's a healthy choice when you're in need of a snack, there are countless alternatives that may tack an extra year or so on to the end of your life. One is putting down the package of Ho Hos and stepping away. I know that they only contain 100 calories, but after you devoured your eighth cake, the calorie count was pretty much negated and so was your new year's resolution to shed those pounds.

So pick up an apple, and maybe some weights while you're at it. If you feel you have to go down to the grocery store for those Fudge Shoppe Grasshopper Fudge Dipped Mint Cookies, walk there. It's amazing how a little exercise can help.

Eduardo Herrera / Valley Star

Spring Break Scares Have Students Changing Plans

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Each year, students visit the beautiful country of Mexico for a week of fun in the sun, but with the current war happening, students may no longer be safe in their travels. With spring break two weeks away, students are advised to be careful when they travel to Mexico's resorts during their week-long vacation. As a result of the drug wars and violence reported around travel destinations, several warnings have been issued to inform students of the possible threats throughout the country.

If you haven't heard, Mexico is in a state of undeclared war near the southern and northern borders. These drug wars, which take place between gangs and cartels throughout the country have created major problems with Mexico's travel and tourism. It's estimated by the U.S State Department that about 100,000 American students travel to cities like Cancun and Rosarito each year as they party the week away. However, this year the number may go down. As much as 60 percent of tourist trips to Baja have dropped since last spring break, according to Mexican tourism officials.

"I've heard so much about this on the news, it's hard to tell if it's worth taking the risk of going there," said Valley College student Olivia Ponce. "But since it's so close and cheaper than other countries it's a hard decision to make."

We all have an idea of what goes on during spring break or have watched movies or T.V. shows on MTV showing teens dancing and partying during this week away from school. But with a war going on at the same time, things might not go as planned. Spring break may be viewed as just teens drinking, abusing drugs, and having sex, but its much more than that. It's about taking a break from studying and just having a good time, and if you're going to a country where it is not safe to visit, you probably shouldn't be there in the first place.

"I've heard so much about it on the news, it's hard to tell if it's worth taking the risk of going there."

- Olivia Ponce
Valley College Student

According to the House of Homeland Security, "There have been 1,000 murders this year alone." The State Department issued a travel warning Feb. 20 urging caution, particularly along the border, for Americans traveling to Mexico."

As warnings begin to pile up, students may start to think about safer locations to visit. Some students currently are looking at other ways of making sure their spring break goes as planned, either heading south to Palm Springs or Florida. This spring break, make sure you make the right choice. Go somewhere you and your friends can have a good time and be safe.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for publication. A full name and contact information must be supplied in order to be printed. Letters must be recieved by Thursday to be included in the next edition.

Proposition 8 Now In Supreme Hands

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

November 4, 2008 was both a great and horrible day for Americans. Barack Obama was swept to the presidency, taking a huge step for African-Americans and bringing joy to millions across the nation. However, this sense of hope was marred by the passing of Proposition 8, which sent civil rights back to the Stone Age and firmly placed uncertainty on the shoulders of 18,000 same-sex couples who were married after California began allowing homosexual couples to marry in June.

The California Supreme Court heard the arguments for and against Prop. 8 earlier this month. The hearing boiled down to three questions: Is Proposition 8 invalid because it constitutes a revision of, rather than an amendment to, the California Constitution? Does Proposition 8 violate the separation of powers doctrine under the California Constitution? And, if Proposition 8 is not unconstitutional, what is its effect, if any, on the marriages of same-sex couples performed before the law's adoption?

This legal jargon only serves to confuse the average Californian. To put it simply, the first question seeks to understand if the California Legislature needs to be involved or not. The second wants to know if the state Supreme Court is the only body that decides the protection of minority groups, and the third asks if the marriages already performed will stay legal, or be nullified.

The Justices of the state's Supreme Court have the chance to enforce one of the paramount civil rights issues of California and the United States – Equal Protection as described in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Although 53 percent of Californians voted to make same sex marriage illegal, the minority of the California Supreme Court must make a decision for the majority. Any logical person can see that depriving one group of a right that everyone else has access to is in direct opposition to Equal Protection. And those of you who still think that it's OK to give gays and lesbians civil unions instead of marriage need to remove yourselves from the1950s –"separate but equal" is not appropriate to apply to race, so it is not alright to apply it to a marriage between two loving people.

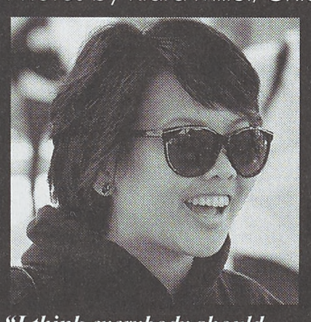
The minority deciding for the majority is not uncommon. When President Harry Truman desegregated the U.S. Military in 1948, he did so by executive order, not through the legislative branch or a popular vote. He did the thing that needed to be done, even though the majority of the nation believed that racial segregation was perfectly fine. When the Supreme Court overturned Plessy v. Ferguson, large portions of the population resisted integration, but the law was the law.

The seven members of the California Supreme Court need to forget about fears of keeping their jobs in the next election and make the right, if unpopular, decision for California. The future of civil rights is more important than the individual.

CAMPUS VIEW:

Should Proposition 8 be overturned by the California Supreme Court?

Photos by Klara Miller, Chief Photographer/Valley Star

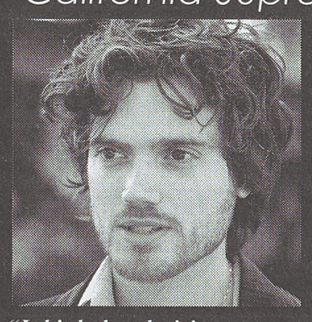


"I think everybody should have equality and love, and if two people love each other, I don't see why they shouldn't be able to marry."

- Sheryl Ulanday
business

"I think we should let people get married. If you're not going to let them get married, might as well stop interracial marriage."

-George Reijer
biology



"I think that decision should be up to the state and shouldn't be up to anyone more than that. It should be something the government decides."

- Patrick Thompson
humanities

"I really don't think that it's up to us whether or not people get married. It should be up to them....It's up to them if they love each other."

- Holly Fleming
psychology

Controversy Stems from Stem Cell Research Plan

DYLAN CORBETT
STAFF WRITER

Finally, a president whose religious background doesn't cloud his judgment on important political policies. President Obama legalized the use of stem cell research March 11, a groundbreaking step forward in science and health. Stem cell research will allow scientists to potentially cure ailments such as Parkinson's disease and nerve tissue damage.

While many religious leaders are strongly opposed to the use of stem cells, claiming it as an aberration of morals, it is high time we take a step toward a secular government like our forefathers intended. No longer should we let a Catholic, or Protestant, or Born-Again Christian lead us by what they feel God would want them to do.

The achievements and progress that can be made with stem cell research are far too great to be put aside by someone who feels it is destructive to human life. It is no more alive than the dirt beneath your feet. These actions once again have the liberals calling out "messiah" of our new President, and they're not wrong.

"What makes stem cells special are their ability to take any health cell in your body and replicate it on a massive scale, causing your body to fight whatever disease or infection is attacking your system," said Sarah Oppenheimer on PhillyBurbs.com. She is a current recipient of stem cells who is expected to make a full recovery.

"I [do] not see why they can allow abortion to go on and not stem cell research."

- Andrew Mixon
Valley College Student

"I [do] not see why they can allow abortion to go on and not stem cell research," said Andrew Mixon, a Valley College student. "It's much less atrocious and helps people tremendously."

In addition to working on getting our economy out of this financial mess, Obama is also leading the charge on issues that should have been dealt with years ago. Things like medical marijuana and stem cell research will no longer be shunned by the big bad religious establishment, but finally considered and put to use for the true healers that they are.

In the end, stem cell research will help hundreds of people suffering from terrible ailments that they did not choose to have. We will not see people starting to farm human fetuses and many lives will be saved. With this new federal policy, America has finally made a step in the right direction.

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, March 18

The LAVC Emergency Services Department is sponsoring a "Corrections & Homeland Security Job Fair" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Monarch Hall. Correctional agencies and homeland security agents will be on hand to recruit students and other job seekers. For more information, contact Allan Krescent at (805) 208-8710 or Eric Hartman at (818) 300-1535.

Wednesday, March 18-30

LAVC is holding a logo contest for the college's 60th Anniversary. Interested students should submit their completed logo design along with their name, email address and phone number to fongjc@lavc.edu by Monday March 30. For questions, contact Jennifer Fong, 60th Anniversary Chair, at fongjc@lavc.edu.

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, March 18
UC Los Angeles Rep 9am-3pm
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30-6:30pm

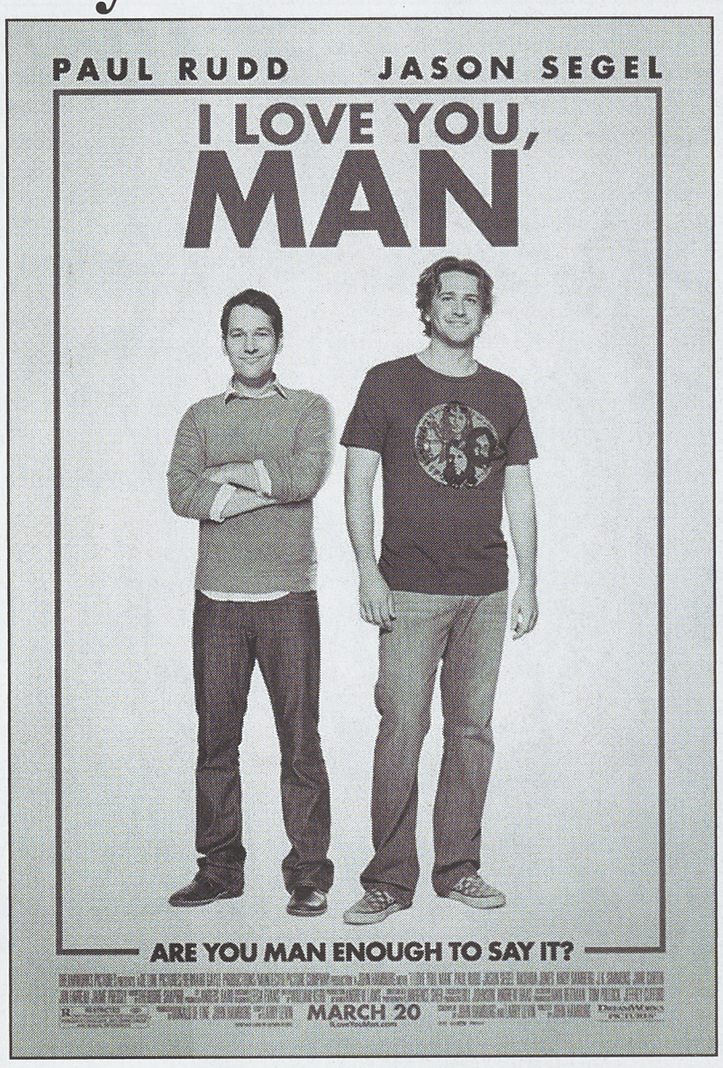
Thursday, March 19
UC Santa Cruz Rep 10am-12noon
Undecided Career/Major Workshop 1-2pm

Tuesday, March 24
CSU Northridge rep 3-7pm
How to Transfer Workshop 1-2pm
Undecided Career/Major Workshop 5:30-6:30pm

All activities held in Career/Transfer Center, Administration 126. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

MOVIE REVIEW

Say I Love You to Bromance



JOSH SPENCE
EDITOR AT LARGE

Fueled by a great cast, unadulterated male bonding, and a killer collection of Rush songs, "I Love You, Man," is a funny and almost embarrassingly honest look into the pursuit of brotherhood.

Paul Rudd plays Peter Klaven, a moderately successful real estate agent who is in search of a friend, realizing he has no one to serve as best man for his impending nuptials. After friends and family send him on various unsuccessful "man-dates," Klaven runs into Sidney Fife (Jason Segal), an honest and opinionated investor who shares Peter's passion for the rock band, Rush. As Peter and Sidney develop a friendship, it comes at the expense of Peter's relationship with his fiancée as tension mounts on both sides and the couple's wedding day draws closer.

Even though some elements of "I Love You, Man," may seem formulaic (relationship scenarios and wedding day hijinx), the deft writing by writer/ producer/ director John Hamburg exposes the inner workings and awkwardness of a male relationship by keeping the dated material fresh, the insight keen and the audience rolling.

The supporting cast is superb and serves as more than the sum of their parts. Rashida Jones ("The Office") plays Peter's fiancé and gracefully walks the line between jealous lover and loving fiancé. J.K. Simmons ("Burn After Reading") and Jane Curtin add enough quirk to give other background roles some color while Jon Favreau and Jamie Pressly are the epitome of the break up to make up couple. Thomas Lennon ("Reno 911") adds comic relief and Andy Samberg ("Saturday Night Live") steals almost every scene he's in.

The real chemistry is between Rudd and Segal. While the duo plays opposites, the contrast is enough to show how opposites do attract and not so much that it delves into "Odd Couple" territory. Kudos goes to both for playing off the awkward tension as well as they do. By not shying away, the viewers are able to enjoy some genuine hilarity compared to taking it to the over-the-top frivolity seen in "Step Brothers." Rudd is an ideal choice for the lead role, considering he has no problem sharing the camera with the likes of Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn and Seth Rogen. Segal is also subject to great casting. After stealing scenes in "Knocked Up," and headlining "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," Segal is able to shine without overpowering Rudd who is more than capable of holding his own onscreen.

Hamburg deserves a large chunk of success for creating such a funny and lively film with an equal mix of sentiment and vulgarity that makes Judd Apatow ("40- Year- Old Virgin," "Knocked Up") himself wish he had written it.

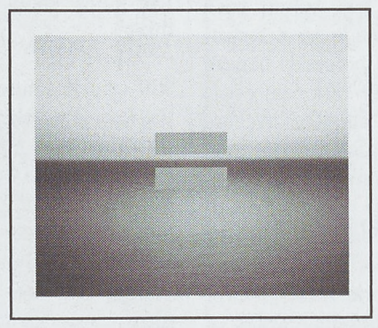
Either on a first date, date night, or with your best friend, "I Love You, Man," is a movie that will fail to disappoint.

ALBUM REVIEW

The End is the Beginning

JOSH SPENCE
EDITOR AT LARGE

U2's latest release "No Line on the Horizon" takes a shift in musical direction by embracing the formula that worked so well on 1991's "Achtung Baby." Incorporating more experimental elements of dance rock, the band's trademark emotional earnestness and self proclaimed renewed dedication to musicianship, U2 is able to reinvent itself in a way that embraces their past while making a path for the future.



What would a U2 album be if it didn't have its share of anthems? The title track is a driving opener filled with mysticism and tension. Songs like "Breathe," "Magnificent," and "Fez: Being Born" have a slow-burn effect where the songs have no real immediacy, but the sonic textures keep you invested. "Moment of Surrender" is reminiscent of 2000's "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of It," and "I'll Go Crazy if I Can't Go Crazy Tonight" is ideal mood music for any Saturday night.

Embracing the usual ponderings about politics, society and humanity's overall well-being, Bono has no direct lyrical message to espouse from his soapbox. The theme of change and new beginnings is present in the title track and coda; spontaneity in the form of "I'll go crazy if I don't go crazy tonight," and love with "Moment of Surrender" and "Magnificent." While the band made a deliberate decision to defer from commenting on the war, "White As Snow" was way too good to leave off the album and "Unknown Caller" is a great departure for Bono as he tells a story about suicide and redemption.

While there may be no central lyrical concept behind "Line," musically the theme is exploration. The slinky, seductive lead single, "Get On Your Boots," is a shuffling, fuzzed out riff that may be The Edge's catchiest and unconventional riff ever.

This is the electro proto rock that the band was attempting to do on the over ambitious "Pop."

Larry Mullen Jr. and Adam Clayton add a primal, hypnotic thunder that's never been quite heard on a U2 album. The Edge's signature sound and Bono's falsetto are ever present, but it's the rhythm section that adds looseness and seduction, making good songs great. The album throughout is a work of a band that's comfortable with themselves and willing to explore, hit or miss.

If you're expecting a second cousin to "How to Dismantle An Atomic Bomb" and "All That You Can't Leave Behind," prepare to be disappointed. "No Line on the Horizon" is the spiritual successor to "Achtung Baby." What makes this album such an accomplishment is the flawless blending of old and new ideas with subtle reinvention that doesn't go over the deep end like "Pop" or "Zooropa." The deluxe edition (an hour-long documentary is included) is a must have for diehards, but the standard edition is more than suitable for casual fans and newcomers. "No Line on the Horizon" isn't U2's fourth masterpiece ("The Joshua Tree,""Achtung Baby,""All That You Can't Leave Behind"), but it's an interesting prologue for the tentatively titled "Songs of Ascent" scheduled for release later this year.

DVD REVIEW

"Rachel Getting Married" Offers No Joy

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

If you want to see Anne Hathaway chain-smoke, spit out barbed remarks to family and be close to tears for two hours, "Rachel Getting Married" would be just to the DVD to rent.

Hathaway stars as Kym, a brittle narcissist who has been a drug addict since her teens. Let out on a weekend pass from her latest stint in rehab, she returns to her family home in Connecticut to see her sister, Rachel, get married. It is clear from the outset that Kym is going to be the catalyst for some major family drama during her two days of freedom.

Rachel (played by Rosemarie DeWitt) and Kym love each other, but the sibling rivalry over who garners the most attention from their ringmaster of a father, Paul (Bill Irwin) is apparent. Kym hates that Rachel is normal, educated and happy while Rachel dislikes her sister for causing the family so much pain. Then there is their mother, Abby (Debra Winger), who cares about herself more than her kids, and Rachel's best friend Emma (Anise George), who resents Kym's presence every time she is on screen.

Anne Hathaway is the best part of what is a hit-and-miss affair, an example of transformation from one-time Disney princess to a pale, slouchy cow who wants to push her inner turmoil out of herself and into the heads of others. The rest of the cast, however, is a tad boring, and doesn't draw you into the storyline.

The problem with this film is director Jonathan Demme trying far too hard to make this foray into the family dynamic esoteric. The slew of characters he has scattered throughout the wedding weekend only serve to make the viewer feel achingly uncomfortable with their 'hipness,' and wonder when "Rachel" will get to the point. The melodrama of what horrific incident causes so much tension in the family unfolds far too slowly to keep the viewer engaged, so much so you might be tempted to fast-forward to the end.

The handy-cam-shooting style of "Rachel" has its benefits in making the viewer feel like they are in rural Connecticut with Kym as she struggles with her past actions; however, it can also arouse feelings of seasickness. The score is the same, coming almost entirely from the musicians crammed into the family homestead during the wedding weekend. The music augments the tension between Kym and her family, but at some points you may wish you could set them on mute.

"Rachel" is missing that x-factor that makes you want to root for the main characters. Ultimately, Kym goes back to rehab after her sister walks down the aisle. She needs to take this movie with her.

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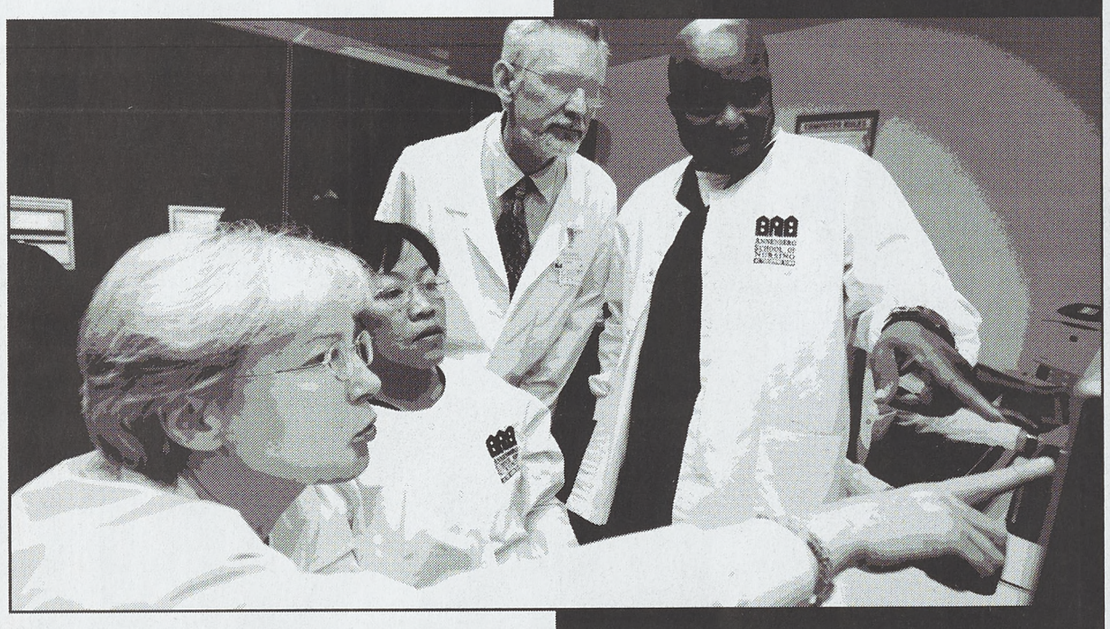

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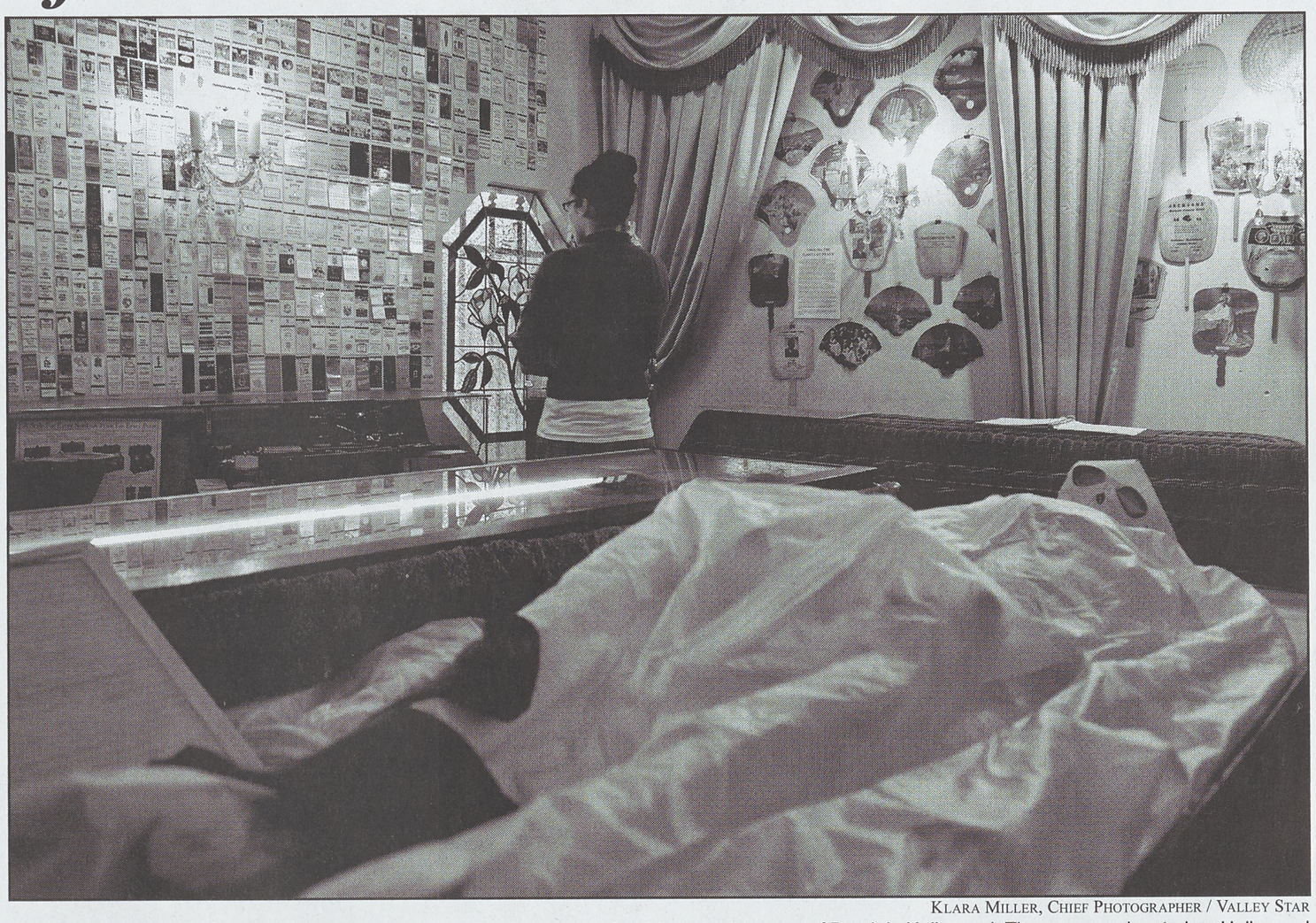
Museum of Death Reveals Final Destination

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

DON'T MIND ME- A paper skeleton lies inside a body bag on a coroner's table at the Museum of Death in Hollywood. The museum, located on Hollywood Boulevard and Grower Street, is to die for.

Cruising along Hollywood Boulevard, blaring AC/DC's "Highway to Hell," the words 'Museum of Death' crept along my peripheral vision. A gasp, shriek and swerve later, I parked in the museum's parking lot off Hollywood Boulevard and Gower Street.

Moving from their original location in San Diego in October, owners JD Healy and Cathee Shultz converted a former old mastering and recording studio where Pink Floyd's "The Wall" was recorded, into a museum dedicated to the inevitable.

Nervously walking towards the giant looming skull marking the entrance, Healy and Shultz cheerfully welcomed me with their two dogs Shadow and Buddy at their side, before briefing me with a caution: "Can you take graphic pictures?" asked Healy. "We've had people faint in here before."

Apprehensively, I stepped through an iron jail fence where the first exhibit paying tribute to the burial process awaited. A TV showing a documentary on after-death procedures breaks the silence as coffins, pictures and autopsy instruments settle into my eyesight. Modern and antique funeral home matchstick booklets plaster one wall, while funeral home fans adorn the adjacent wall, both illustrating the history and styles of mortuaries over time.

The next exhibit recreates San Diego's Heavens Gate suicide, complete with authentic clothing, suicide letter, and bunk bed set, while two mannequins play the role of the departed. Pictures of particularly gruesome murders of the past and the travails of drunk driving plaster the maze-like museum walls between the major displays.

The Charles Mason murders garner their own exhibit, where original pictures of the victims such as Sharon Tate and the LeBianca family, taken at the crime scene, are on display. Mixed in with various books, are pictures of Mason throughout the various stages of his life, and artwork completes the exhibit. Also included are various fact sheets on other famous deaths, including Phil Hartman, Black Dahlia, and River Phoenix.

Walking up to the Theater of Death, I can hear heavy metal music and I mentally try to prepare myself for what could lay inside. Sitting in a fold-up chair, the only light came from the big screen TV which played a fuzzy film montage of various deaths caught on camera. Looking around the room, which contained an assortment of beat-up folding chairs and crime scene taped walls, I could only bear the view for a few minutes, unlike Orange County resident Katie Glaister.

"It fascinates me, I'm not usually drawn to death, although I'm curious about it," said Glaister. "In the theater, there was footage of the sacrifice. That was interesting to me; I didn't even know that it existed."

Going through the last exhibit, dedicated to serial killers, such as Son of Sam and Richard "The Slayer" Ramirez, I couldn't take much more. Walking out to the entrance, Healy pulls out a two-headed turtle and tells me stories about their dogs, and the history behind their museum.

"We've always been into art and it just evolved out of our Art Gallery," said Healy. "You hang a sign that says Museum of Death and people start bringing things out of the closets and donating them to you."

For $15, anyone is welcome inside to immerse themselves in the infamous and grisly history of man's mortality. Two dollars are taken off for students, with proper identification, so even you can come and see for yourself why the museum has found the perfect location amongst the other oddities that make up Hollywood.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:

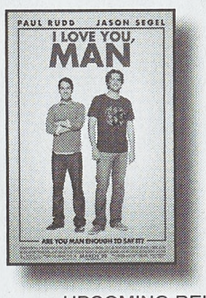
THE DECEMBERISTS, *THE HAZARDS OF LOVE*

OTHER RELEASES:

Coheed and Cambria, *Neverender*
Keri Hilson, *In APerfect World...*
Ray J, *For the Love of Ray J*
Leela James, *Let's Do It Again*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



I LOVE YOU, MAN

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Duplicity
Knowing
The Great Buck Howard

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

OTHER RELEASES:

I'm Rick James
Gardens Of The Night
Praying With Lior
The Venture Bros.:The Third Season
Bolt

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

THE OLD COLLEGE TRY- Valley College outfielder Yvonne Padilla makes a diving stab for the ball during the first game of a double header against Glendale College at home last week. The Lady Monarchs took game one in the 5th inning when they landed an eight run lead on the visiting team. Strong defensive play and pitching kept the green and gold in position for a win in game two.

Double Header, Double Win

CAITIE UHLMANN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

You couldn't have asked for better weather, as the Valley College softball team dominated Glendale Community College's in Thursday's double header. The Monarchs beat the Vaqueros at home, crushing them 10-2 in game one, and slipping by 2-1 in game two.

Coach Frankie Garcia was pleased with the team's performance.

"We always play great against each other," says Garcia. "I didn't know anything ahead of time. I just knew that it would be two fun games to participate in and watch."

Game one of the doubleheader was called under the mercy rule in the 5th inning, as the Monarchs were dominating 10-2.

During game two of Thursday's doubleheader, the Monarchs caught the ball no matter where it was hit.

The game got off to a slow scoring start as both teams remained scoreless until the third inning. Even though the second inning didn't result in runs on the board, it was nonetheless action packed. Glendale was up to bat with a player on first. Freshman Valerie Garcia wound up a pitch, allowing Glendale to sprint to second, and round to third. The Monarchs retaliated with a double play. Freshman Amber Cabada tagged a runner out at first and launched the ball to fresman third baseman Kaitlyn Baca, resulting in two outs. A pop-up caught by Valerie Prendiz ended the 2nd inning.

At the top of the third inning, the Monarchs were down by one, Glendale had two outs, and runners on second and third. Valaree Garcia's pitch was lined up the middle, but hauled in at second base by Prendiz.

Hoping to get on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth, freshman Christina Perez singled in her at bat. With Perez on first, freshman Bellen Benitez was up to bat. Benitez hit a line drive going through the hands of the Vaqueros second baseman, allowing her to make it to first and Perez sprinting to third. Next at bat, freshman Jenny Portillo started with a swing and a miss. Portillo's strike, gave Benitez a chance to go unnoticed, and steal second base. Portillo's at bat resulted in her being tagged out at first, but allowed Perez to run home. The game was now tied 1-1.

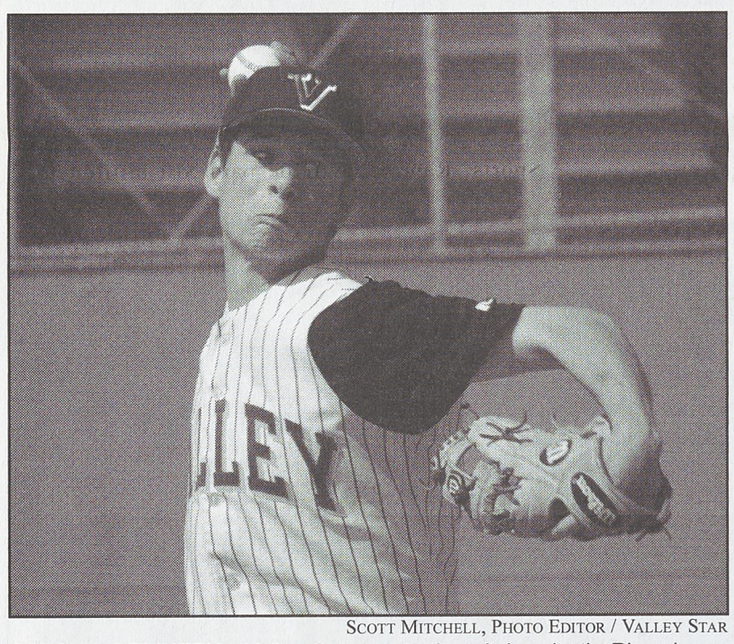
Seizing the opportunity with Benitez on third, freshman Shasta Lionetti smacked the ball through the hands of Glendale's pitcher and shortstop, reaching first base as Benitez slid into home. Benitez's run brought the score up to 2-1.

As the 6th and 7th innings remained scoreless, their runs in the 5th inning proved to be the difference for the Monarchs. They held onto the lead to win 2-1.

The Monarchs rallied together to outplay the Vaqueros. Garcia believes, that teamwork is what won the game.

"It was a group effort," states Garcia. "Fortunately I have a team of MVP's even when forced to choose!"

The Monarchs next take the field Sunday, when they host Fullerton and Long Beach. The games begin at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

SPECIAL DELIVERY - Valley College starting pitcher Justin Rivas bears down on a Glendale College batter during the early innings of Thursday's home game.

Poor Play Continues on the Diamond for Monarchs

H. GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

Home wasn't sweet Saturday as Valley College baseball performed poorly in the field and at the plate, falling to Bakersfield College 18-3. The loss is Valley's fifth consecutive, and gives the squad their second five-game skid of the season.

"We're struggling right now," said Valley Head Coach Dave Mallas. "That makes us 3-8 in the conference, but the positive in all of this is that the first place team is 6-4 starting today so at worst we're four games back with 15 or more games to go."

Already trailing 3-0 to start the third inning, Valley dug their hole deeper. Bakersfield outfielder Jarret Martin hit a sharp single to right, but freshman outfielder Sean McGrier misplayed the ball allowing Martin to advance to third.

Third baseman Travis Morgan singled home Martin, and took second when second baseman Oscar Soriano bobbled a hit by Bakersfield first baseman Art Charles. From there an infield hit, a hit batsman, a base on balls, a passed ball, and a balk led to five more Renegade runs and a 9-0 lead for the visitors.

Travis Morgan led the Bakersfield offense with four singles, a triple, and four RBIs in six plate appearances. He didn't have an explanation for his huge game.

"I felt a big day coming for the team in the first inning…" said Morgan. "But for me it came out of nowhere. I was comfortable at the plate and I'll tell you, nothing beats five hits."

The Renegades scored in six of nine innings. The Valley offense didn't scratch its first run across until the fifth inning, when freshman catcher Sam Arce singled home sophomore outfielder Matt Johnson. Sean McGrier doubled in a run in the ninth and a passed ball allowed accounted for Valley's third score.

Bakersfield head coach Tim Painton was glad his team didn't let up even when they were up double digits.

"The game of baseball can change in a heartbeat, so fortunately we were able to keep putting runs on the board," said Painton. "We've been on the other side of games like this as well and it's important to play the whole nine innings."

The Monarchs hope to turn things around Thursday when they welcome Mission College to Pike Field for a 2:30 game.

Runners Shine at CSU Northridge

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

The Monarch track team competed in the annual Northridge Invitational Saturday, showcasing their talents among some of the top track programs in the country. Several Monarch athletes earned personal bests in their respective events.

The team shared the track and field with squads from USC, Cornell, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, Alaska, Glendale College, Bakersfield College, Mount San Antonio College, Pepperdine, Humboldt State, Moorpark, and the host team, California State University Northridge.

"This is always a good showcase, especially for the sophomores," said Monarch assistant coach Yannick Allain. "We go up against some elite competition, which brings out some better performance by our team."

Monarch hurdler Wayne Shepheard placed first place in the 110 high hurdles heat with a personal best of 16:05 seconds.

The meet started at 9 a.m., and though there was no rain or high winds, the temperatures fluctuated through the day. Trainers were kept busy, treating tight muscles and keeping athletes hydrated.

The Lady Monarchs represented themselves well, with Mekka Edwards-White earning a personal best time in the 800 meter run. Sylvia Aboniga ran a best time in the 400 meter intermediate and finished first in her 400 meter heat in a race that had the entire stadium cheering.

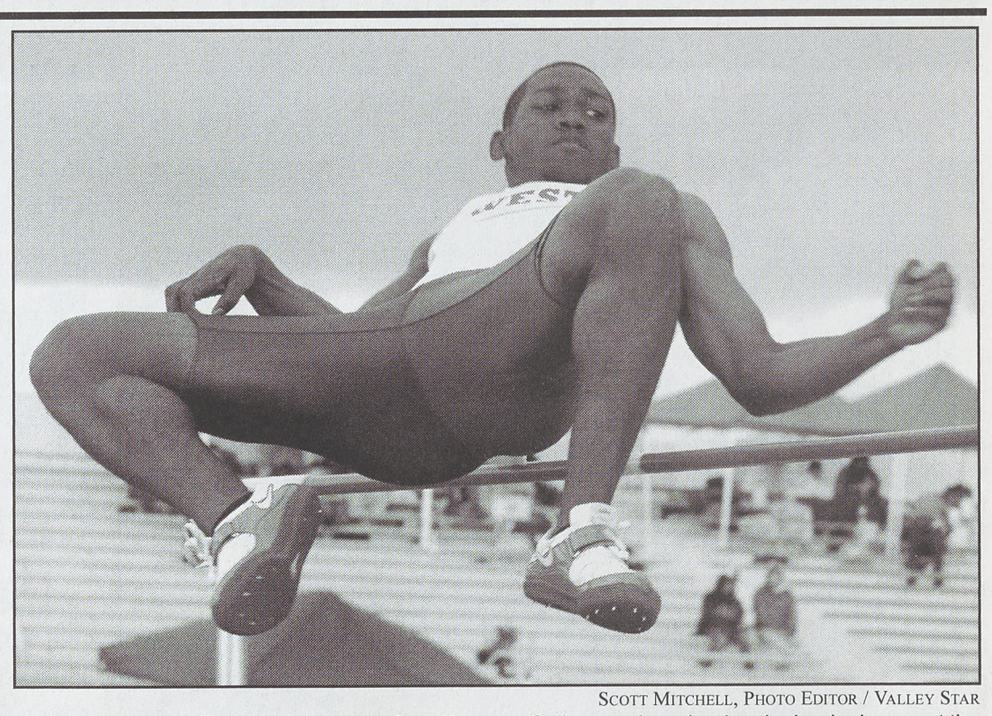
Head Track and Field coach Francois Wolman said that the team is poised to pounce on more success after the Northridge meet.

"On the men's side we are pretty happy with Wayne Shepheard. He won his heat today and is ready to break 16 seconds and that is exciting."

Several of the Monarch team members were missing from the competition, with Distance runner Andrew Salg and pole-vaulters Hector Avelar and Christopher Chan competing at a separate event. Salg also ran the night before at Occidental College.

"Last nights meet at Occidental College our top distance runner Andrew Salg had the top time in the state 10,000.," said Wolman.

The Monarchs travel to Cerritos this Friday for the California Relays, and Allain is thoroughly looking forward to it.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

ENJOYING THE VIEW - A high jumper from West LA College makes clearing the bar look easy at the Northridge Invitational event on Saturday.

Hanging Them Up

■ **Valley College Athletic Director Chuck Ferraro says goodbye after 30 years of service to the school.**

H.GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

The last place Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero wants to be is sitting behind a desk with a telephone, computer, and printer surrounding him like an electronic army as he battles his paperwork. He's usually watching baseball or football, hanging by the new pool, or at the gym; the office is his necessary evil.

The 61-year-old arrives to work around 5 a.m., usually wearing a green cap with a gold 'V'. He stands at a lean 6'2" and his voice hints at a past in coaching. His demeanor draws comparisons to a Clint Eastwood movie. People call him "Mr. Valley College".

"I've always had a philosophy," said Ferrero. "If you're being paid for a days work, you do at least a day and half's work if not two days work."

This philosophy helped Ferrero, throughout his 30 year career at Valley. He retired in January, but remains on campus as a consultant and AD until a successor is named.

"He's above and beyond," said Bernie Christian, Professor of Physical Education. "Some people don't like his technique but it gets the job done and if it gets the job done that's all that matters."

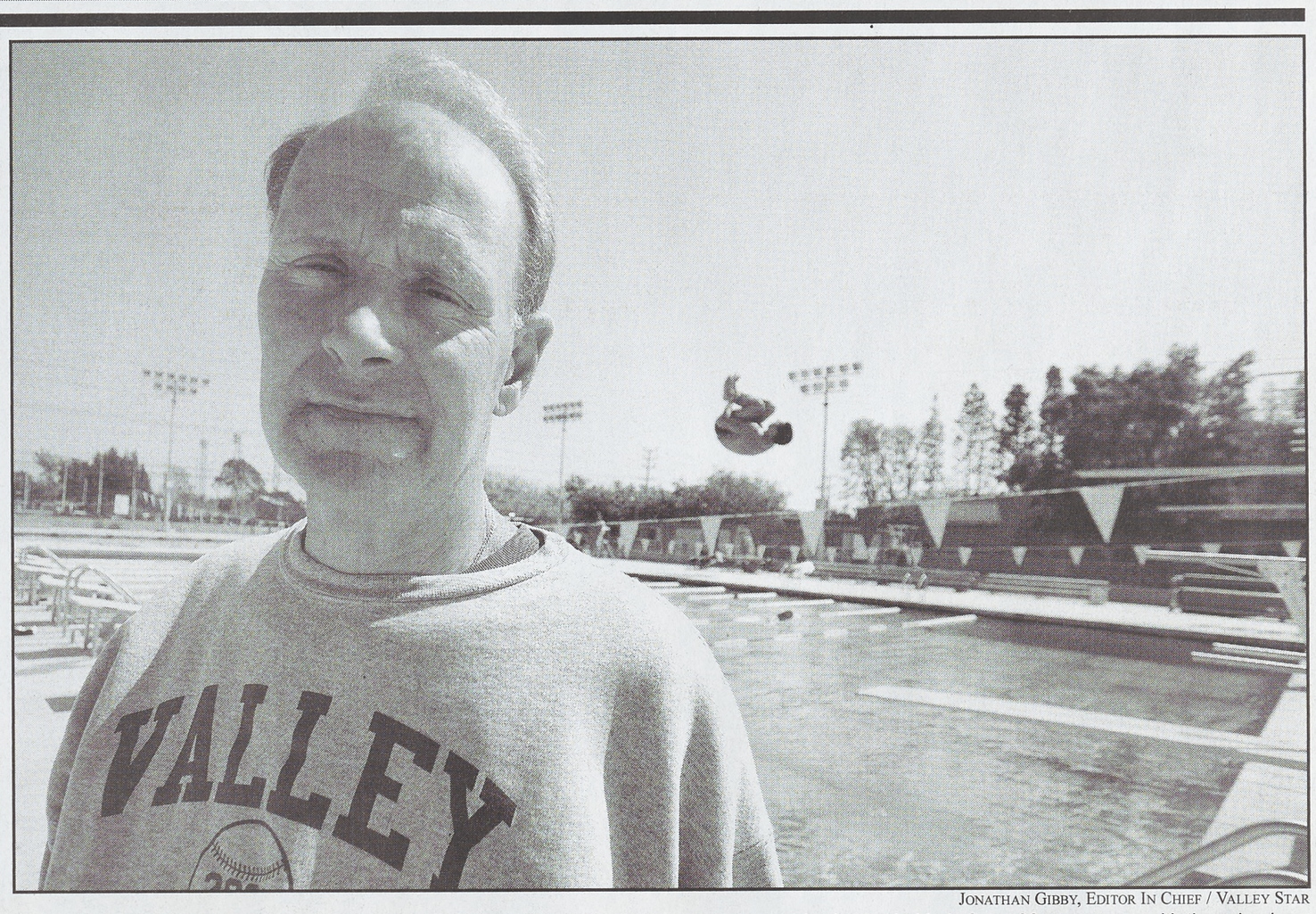
In the 30 years Chuck has worked at Valley, he's seen the good and bad, people come and go. The biggest change he's noticed is in the attitude of society which permeates the athletic department.

"There are a lot more young people now that need immediate gratification instead of paying the dues," he said. "I think that comes from the computer age. That goes for coaches too. A lot of the coaches today need immediate gratification instead of grind for very little money and prove yourself... They want it now."

Some of Ferrero's accomplishments at Valley include overseeing countless projects. He's the driving force behind the athletic department renovations, Valley's hall of fame, increased eligibility rates for athletes, and he brought about Title IX compliance. Many administrators feel Chuck's hard work should be honored by naming the football stadium after him.

He manages to be in four places at once, watching many games and meets, while attending to administrative duties. During any absences, he calls team trainers Dennis Mestas and Angelo Cimity for game updates.

"If you're gonna be a good athletic director you better be at every event and you better be on top of everything," says Ferrero. "It's a non-stop job. It's a 24 hour job. If you do it right, it's a 24 hour job."



JONATHAN GIBBY, EDITOR IN CHIEF / VALLEY STAR

SUNSETS ON FERRERO - Valley College Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero leaves an impressive legacy behind after a 30 year career with the school.

Born in Santa Monica, Ferrero and has lived in Southern California his entire life. He played football for UCLA, where he earned degrees in physical education and geography in 1970. Chuck taught high school and coached football in Orange County while working on his Masters degree in physical education from Azusa Pacific.

After three years in the O.C., Chuck transferred to Canyons High School as head football coach and athletic director. After seven years he took the defensive coordinator job at College of the Canyons. He was hired as Valley's football coach in 1979, a position he held until 1990 when he became athletic director.

"There's real dedication there, a dedication that you don't see in the average individual," said Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Vice President of Student Services. "The athletic department will be different without him because there won't be another person that will give so much of himself, be so dedicated to his job, as Chuck was." The Commission on Athletics recently honored Ferrero with the 2008 California Community College Physical Educator Award, in the category of Physical Education/Athletics Administration.

When he quits working, Ferrero plans to leave the Valley relocating to the San Diego area and pass his days near the ocean. "I'm gonna do some fishing when I'm done," says Ferrero. "I like fishing down on the Pacific side of Baja a lot. I like the adventure down there. You never know what you're gonna find around the next bend."

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The Dodger Club Wakes Up

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

In the years after the Los Angeles Dodgers 1988 World Series victory, many fans found themselves reluctantly driving up Stadium Way to see a Dodger game. Many times, the only circumstance that could draw you to the stadium on the hill was a last minute cancellation of your neighbor's kid's t-ball game you were supposed to see that afternoon.In any case, seeing the Dodgers this season will not be a last minute decision, and this year, our newly found championship hopes will be 6-feet tall, 200 pounds, and earning 45 big ones over a span of two years...But, is he worth it?

Joining the Dodger squad last July, after a painful split with the Boston Red Sox, Manny Ramirez had 183 hits, 37 home runs, and a.332 batting average. Most players could not touch these numbers in a full season of play; Manny did it in only half. He also took the team to the National League Championship Series, which the Dodgers hadn't seen in 20 years.

According to the Pasadena Star-News, the opening day of Dodger tickets sales for the 2009 season came in at around 49,000, which was a 12,000-ticket jump from last year. The Dodgers also finished third in home attendance last year, with an impressive average of 46,059 per game. Do you think the franchise, after delaying for weeks what Manny was asking for in his new contract, could give a little credit to Ramirez for this increase? Maybe?

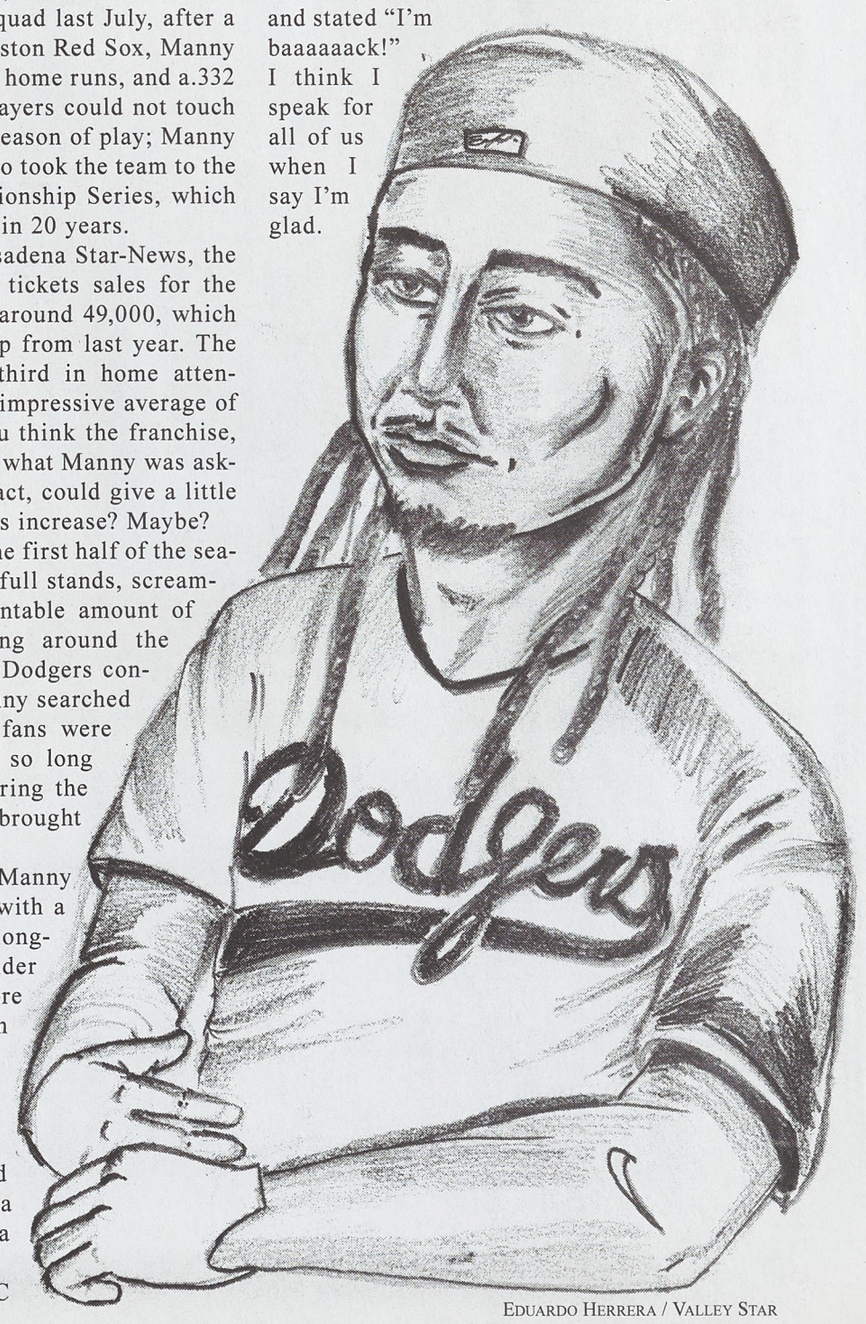
In comparison with the first half of the season the second half had full stands, screaming fans, and an uncountable amount of Ramirez jerseys floating around the packed stadium. As the Dodgers continued to delay, and Manny searched for other offers, many fans were asking what could take so long to strike a deal considering the stats and feel Manny has brought back to Chavez Ravine.

"Every game with Manny the stadium feels alive with a playoff atmosphere," longtime season ticket holder Jon Higgins said. "Before Manny, Dodger Stadium seemed lifeless, with little hope...Manny brings hope to a great organization."

The Dodgers and Manny finally came to a $45 million deal over a length of two years.

According to NBC Sports, Ramirez will be paid $10 million in 2009, and $15 million in deferred money with no interest. The two sides agreed to a two-year deal, but Ramirez has an option to opt out after one, if he stays for the length of the contract Manny will be paid the remainder of three $8.3 million payments from 2011-2013. Ramirez will have until November to decide if he will remain in Dodgertown for the second year.

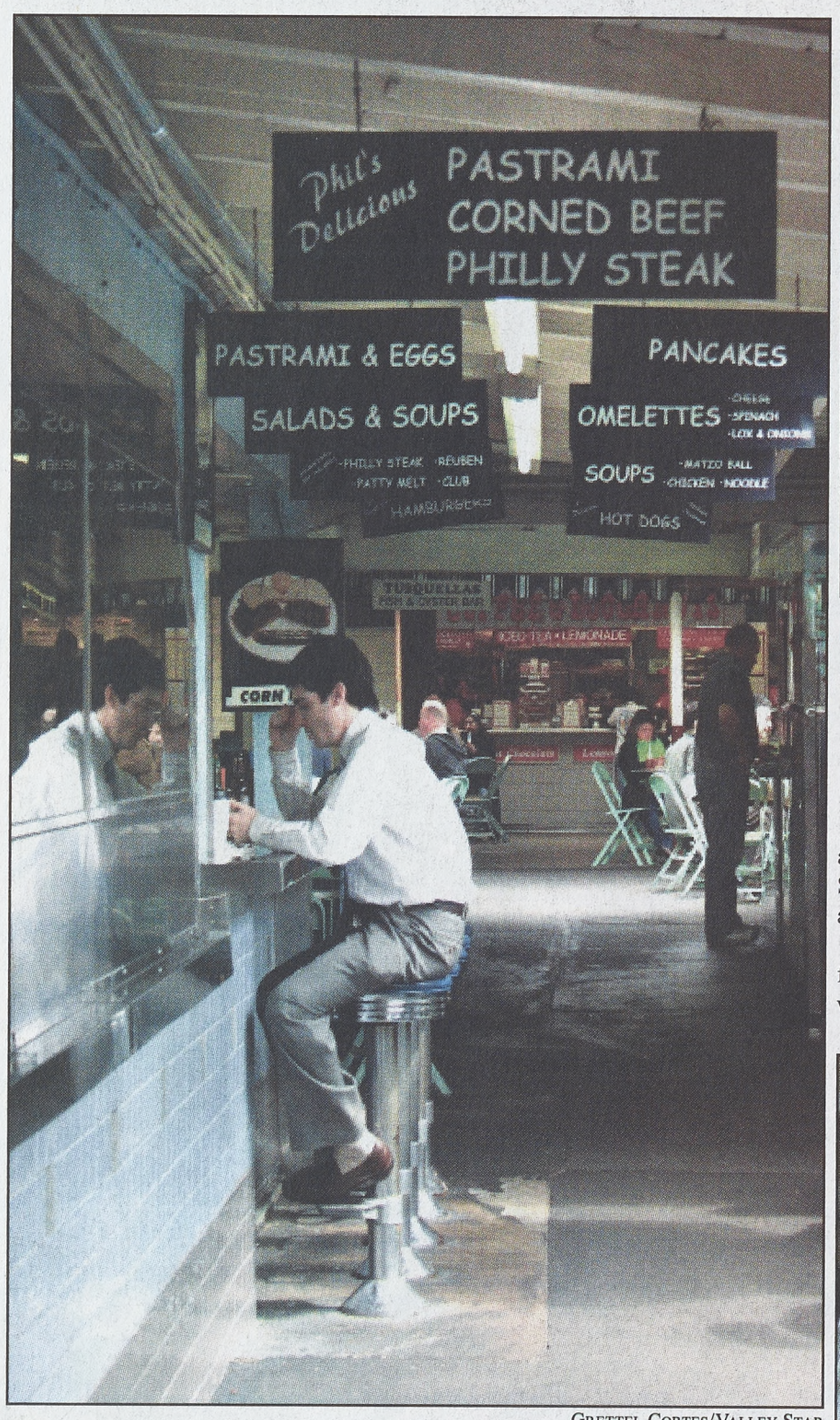
As the radio announcers and ESPN commentators reported the possible proposals Manny would get from the Dodgers, fans sat on the edges of their seats awaiting an unlikely return of number 99. Soon after the deal was set in stone, Ramirez looked to the hungry media and stated "I'm baaaaaack!" I think I speak for all of us when I say I'm glad.



EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

MEET ME AT THIRD & FAIRFAX- The Farmers Market clock tower was originally built in 1952. When The Grove At Farmers Market was developed, the clock tower was carefully taken down, fully restored, and rebuilt.

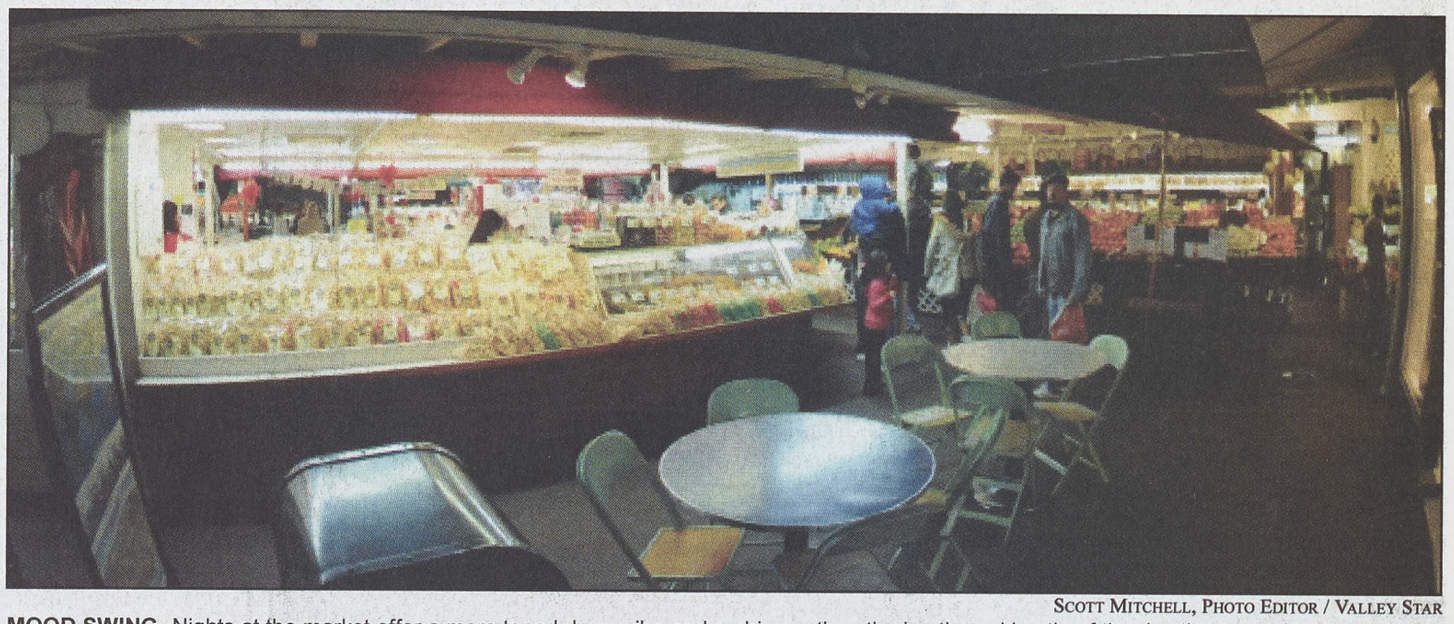


GRETTEL CORTES/VALLEY STAR

TRIVIAL PURSUIT - More than 3 million people visit this cultural icon each year. Business persons, tourists, and a mixed bag of Angelinos take in the sights, sounds, tastes, and spirit of the market every day. Portions of the market have been designated as an official Los Angeles Cultural and Historic landmark.

Back in the day, Gilmore Stadium, which was located just west of the market, hosted boxing, baseball, racing, football, rodeos, and even a cricket match. Midget car racing was said to have been born at Gilmore Stadium.

Each year, the market celebrates Cinco De Mayo, Saint Patrick's Day, The Gilmore Heritage Auto Show, and the Fall Festival. The market provides employment to more than 700 people, and over 20 languages are spoken by vendors. Patsy's Pizzeria also has its home here; it was the first pizzaria to open in L.A.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

MOOD SWING- Nights at the market offer a more toned down vibe and ambience than the hustle and bustle of the day time experience.

LA Farmers Market; History, Food and Fun

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

The Los Angeles Farmer's Market, located at the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Third Street, has been a part of the city's landscape and culture since July 1934.

Locals visit the market weekly, tourists flock in daily, and Los Angeles residents who want to share the experience visit when they can. The "Farmers Public Market" was first opened in 1934, when business man Roger Dahlhjelm and copywriter Fred Beck received permission from the Gilmore Island dairy farm to allow local farmers to sell fresh produce to local shoppers. The concept was an immediate success. Permanent stalls were set up for vendors and small businesses, and in October 1934, they held the first Farmers Market Fall Festival, which has become an annual tradition.

There are foods for every taste at the market. Magee's Nuts, the inventors of the term, "mixed nuts", sells 100,000 pounds of fresh peanut butter each year. For those with a sweet tooth, Gil's Ice Cream has been at the market for over 70 years.

If you are ever in the mood to decompress, step back in time, and experience something special, make the time to visit the L.A. Farmers Market.

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

SEAFOOD GALORE - Tusquellas fresh fish and seafood restaurant sells over 3,000 shrimp a day.

SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

VINTAGE-All of the two wheeled wooden grocery carts are made by hand on premises. They are painted in the official farmers market green.